



Illinois Families Now and Forever

Families by Foster Care, Adoption and Guardianship®

Council lauds top five Implementation Plans

Plans make a difference

While the impact of Foster Parent Law Implementation Plans may not always be obvious, they affect programs and families across the state. Thus, private agencies and DCFS regions must take their plans seriously.

"In 1999, only one or two plans scored above 100. Now, nearly half the plans scored over 100 points from a possible total of 104," said Ray Gates, Foster Parent Law Administrator.

To score well on the implementation plans, private agencies and DCFS regions must document that foster parents helped develop and approved the plan. The requirement for foster care involvement prompted many programs to form foster parent advisory councils that often contribute to the plans.

The Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council follows a review process to make sure that plans are used. As part of this process, interviews with foster parents show that more caregivers are familiar with their rights and responsibilities under the Foster Parent Law and their agency's implementation plan.

Annually, private agency staff and caregivers take a long hard look at how their foster care program stacks up against the rights and responsibilities in the Foster Parent Law. All private agency and DCFS region-based foster care programs must submit an annual Foster Parent Law Implementation Plan. The Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council reviewed and scored the 75 plans for 2007. Acting Director Erwin McEwen joined the Council at its May meeting to honor the five top-scoring plans submitted by: Beatrice Caffrey, Casa Central Social Services, DCFS Cook North Region, Hephzibah, and Kids Hope United.

"The high scores are, of course, wonderful. What is even more important is that agencies incorporate their plans into everyday practice," said Council Chair Uli Senz.

The winning plans should have no problem moving from paper to practice, since each of the top



Casa Central Social Services finished among the top five scoring plans. Pictured: Antonio Fernandez, Foster Parent Kimberly Iglesias, Erwin McEwen and Natasha Brown

plans highlighted collaboration with foster parents.

To prepare their current plan, DCFS Cook North Region had foster parents evaluate the previous year's plan. Apparently they have a system that works, since they have been in the top five for four out of five years. Another multi-year winner, Hephzibah, has been in the top five for the last three years. Hephzibah attributes its success to the foster parent leaders who have initiated and implemented several new programs with the agency.

Continued on page 2



From the Acting Director

Erwin McEwen

I had the privilege of congratulating four private agencies and the DCFS Cook North Region for earning top scores on their Foster Parent Law Implementation Plans. The agencies are listening to the Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council's reviews, and scores keep improving. That happens because the programs with strong plans are also listening to their foster parents.

I, too, have been doing a lot of listening. I have traveled nationally, and the word is that Illinois is doing a lot of things right. Now, we set the bar high. That was not always true. Ten years ago when cases ballooned to 51,000 we struggled. Now with 16,000 youth under direct care of DCFS, we have the resources to continue making strides and the capacity to take on new challenges.

I recently went to San Diego where Illinois was lauded for our progress in early childhood intervention to make families stronger. Soon after, I went to Washington DC to mark 10 years of amazing permanency results, with 81,000 children moving to permanent families through reunification, adoption or guardianship. Still, meeting with legislators reinforced that we have more to do to protect our progress. Our focus will be and must be on supporting families as they raise their children. You make much better parents than we ever could. Our main goal is to help you do that.

Implementation plan winners, con't.

Another central theme among the top implementation plans was communication. Casa Central Social Services earned a top honor for a second time. This year, their plan included a commitment to respond to all foster parent grievances within 72 hours. They also made sure that caregivers stayed informed of meetings and court dates, providing a "red folder" to hold all important documents. At Kids Hope United, the agency and foster parents committed to developing an implementation plan that reflected the realities of their foster care program. Open communication while drafting the plan paid off. They made it through to

the top five for the first time. Communication also helped Beatrice Caffrey earn a triple crown, with top scoring plans from 2004, 2005 and now 2007. Foster parents weigh in on service with quarterly surveys. The caregivers also drive the training curriculum, as the agency delivers in-service courses based on their needs.

Every agency and regional plan should be a living document. But its shelf-life is short. In just a few months, agencies and DCFS regions will begin again to prepare and submit the 2008 plans at the end of the year.



Beatrice Caffrey: Mark Bouie, Foster Parent Bonnette Brooks, Erwin McEwen and Maurice Dorris



Cook North: Chris McGrath, Foster Parent and council member Cecil Gardner, Erwin McEwen, Foster Parent and council member Nancy Lauffenberger and Sari Rowitz



Hephzibah: Julie Dvorsky, Erwin McEwen, Foster Parent Susan Reich and Amy O'Rourke



Kids Hope United: Martin Sinnott, Karen Powell, Erwin McEwen, Foster Parent Latasha Thomas and Ruann Barack

Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council bulletin

The Statewide Advisory Council was established as part of the Foster Parent Law. Its volunteer members meet at least 6 times a year to advise DCFS about foster care issues and to oversee implementation of the Foster Parent Law. Below are highlights from recent meetings.

Success on bed hold policy

At the March meeting, members of the Cook South Regional Advisory Board presented their concerns about a change to DCFS policy for "bed hold" payments. The regional council felt foster parents should continue to receive board payment when a child is out of the home for hospitalization, in a detention center or in a substance abuse treatment program. They noted that even while the child is out of their home caregivers still are involved in visits and case planning.

The Statewide Council took the matter to the DCFS Acting Director, who agreed. At the May meeting, Acting Director McEwen announced that a revised policy is in effect and payment will continue when 1) foster parents remain involved while the child is away and 2) the youth returns to the home after release from the treatment facility or detention. Requests for bed hold payments must be made by the caseworker using CFS 906-4.



Uli Senz



Ramon Nieves

Election of new officers

The Council held elections in May for the fiscal year that started July 1. Uli Senz will serve another term as chair. Ramon Nieves was elected vice-chair. Senz was first appointed to the council as a community expert, working with foster care programs at a private agency. He is also an adoptive parent. Ramon Nieves also was appointed to the council as a community expert. Nieves was once a DCFS regional administrator in Cook Central.



Mary White



Donsetta Blakley



Vicky Kline



Sylvia Florey

Thanks for serving

The new fiscal year also brought several members to the end of their allotted terms. The council



Each member leaving the Council received special recognition. Ray Gates of DCFS is pictured with Mary White

will miss their commitment to serving foster families:

- Mary White, Central Region
- Donsetta Blakley, Cook South
- Vicky Kline, Southern Region
- Sylvia Florey, Catholic Charities

Condolences from the Council

The Council extends condolences to the family of Ellen Kazaras, a former member, after her passing in May. Ellen represented the Cook North Region on its local advisory board and on the statewide council. She was a strident advocate for her own children through foster care and adoption, and always looked to the interests of other families.

Upcoming meetings

The next meeting of the Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council will be on Friday, September 7. This is a joint meeting with the Statewide Youth Advisory Board. Call the DCFS Office of Foster Parent Support Services at 217-524-2422 for more details or further information about the Council.

Sign on some dotted lines

As school gets underway, stacks of papers will come home stuffed in book bags waiting for an adult's signature. For children in DCFS foster care, there are guidelines about what a foster parent can sign. Foster parents are authorized and encouraged to sign consents for general school-related activities, including but not limited to:

- Field trips within Illinois
- Routine special events (picnics, school parties, etc.)
- School enrollment
- Attendance at sporting events
- Extra-curricular activities (**excluding** participation in sports)
- Cultural events
- Case study evaluations
- Individualized Education Plan
- Three year re-evaluations of special education services

Foster parents are **not** authorized to sign consent for the following activities. Instead they must contact the caseworker when consent is needed for:

- Athletic participation
- Media coverage/events
- Slide show productions
- Voice reproductions
- Research projects
- Field trips outside of Illinois
- Liability releases
- Medical exams or care

School physicals before heading to school

Health Requirements

Two of the most important forms schools require are the school physical and dental records.

The state of Illinois requires school children to have a current physical (within the past year) and to be current with immunizations if they are:

- Entering school for the first time at any age
- Are or will be five years old when entering Kindergarten
- Entering the fifth grade
- Entering the ninth grade

A lead screening is required for young children entering daycare, preschool and Kindergarten. Children entering Kindergarten or first grade also must be immunized against chicken pox/varicella. In areas of high incidences of tuberculosis (TB) a TB skin test is required as part of the physical exam. Talk with the child's doctor to see if that is required in your locale.

Original copies of the Certificate of Child Health Examination, completed and signed by the physician, should be given to the school nurse where the child is enrolled. Don't forget to give a copy to the child's caseworker and to keep a copy for your own records. Children who do not have a current physical or shots by October 15, according to state law,



will not be allowed to attend school until the record is updated.

Dental Requirements

Additionally, state law requires that Illinois children in Kindergarten, second and sixth grades have dental examinations by a licensed dentist. This includes all students attending public, private or parochial schools. Caregivers must present proof of examination before May 15 of the current school year. If not, the school may hold second and sixth grade report cards until receiving proof that the exam took place or will happen within 60 days of May 15. Each school must give notice of the requirement to the parents or guardians at least 60 days before May 15 each school year.

Call the DCFS Office of Health Policy at 217-557-2689 with questions about exams or immunizations.

School work starts before school starts

Soon it will be time to trade the beach bag for a book bag as the start of school gets closer. The DCFS Educational Advisors offer the following suggestions for caregivers to get children back to school for a successful year.

Before School Starts

- Review school records
- Discuss any educational issues
- Prepare children by talking about school and adjusting their schedules
- Get necessary immunizations and school physicals
- Check to make sure children are registered in school
- Obtain and read the school handbook
- Make sure children have adequate school supplies
- Determine transportation
- Decide on before and after school care, if needed

First Week of school

The first week back is a busy time for everyone. It is especially stressful for children who are meeting new teachers and classmates, or perhaps starting at or moving to a new school. To help everyone, caregivers will want to:

- Meet the new teachers and introduce yourself
- Share information on who is to be contacted for what and how communication will be handled throughout the year
- Arrange an individual school meeting to work through anticipated problems, if needed
- Know and discuss classroom rules with students



- Set up a homework schedule
- Sign up for extracurricular activities
- Follow up on transportation

School Discipline

School districts are required to provide students with copies of school discipline policies and to provide copies of discipline procedures upon request. Make sure you receive copies and review the procedures with the children in your care.

At any time a child is suspended more than twice in a semester, the caseworker and caregiver should meet with the school to develop or revise a behavior plan for the student.

Contact the education advisor's office in your region for assistance with enrollment, suspension and expulsion issues. The contact information is listed in the regional insert to this newsletter.

For any student who faces expulsion, the caregiver should contact the caseworker immediately. Through the DCFS Guardian's Office each child will be ensured representation.

Movin' On Up

News for youth transitioning to adulthood

DCFS offers many education and employment programs with varying eligibility criteria. Call 312-814-5959 for more information.

Youth in College/Vocational Training Program

Eligibility: Youth under 21 who are under court-ordered guardianship of DCFS. Youth participating in the program at age 21 (in good standing) are eligible to remain in the program until the semester they turn 23. Youth who were adopted or are in Subsidized Guardianship are not eligible.

Community College Payment Program

Eligibility: Youth under 21 who are under court-ordered guardianship of DCFS. Youth who were adopted or are in Subsidized Guardianship are not eligible.

Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program

Eligibility: Youth who were under the court-ordered legal responsibility of DCFS at age 16 prior to adoption or Subsidized Guardianship may be eligible for ETV funds if all other requirements are met.

Youth in Scholarship Program

Eligibility: Applicants for the DCFS Scholarship must be under the court-ordered legal responsibility of DCFS, have aged out of care, or DCFS must have had legal responsibility immediately prior to the adoption being finalized, or the applicant must be in the Subsidized Guardianship Program.

DCFS answers questions about licensing and placement policies

Foster parents will often have questions about how their home gets chosen for a child. Sometimes the question is why their home has not been selected to place a child. DCFS is taking a close look at the number of licensed homes and how they are being used, alongside information about the children in care currently and future projections. That research will lead to new policies to ensure that homes best fit children's needs.

Steven Minter, DCFS Licensing Administrator, provided background information and answers to some of the questions foster parents raise about licensing and placement.

Q: How many licensed homes are there in Illinois?

A: DCFS regional foster care programs have about 2,400 licensed homes. In the private agencies there are 20,000 licensed homes and about 40 percent have children placed in them.

Q: How do you know which homes can take kids?

A: We recently developed a foster home availability database that is updated each week. DCFS or agency staff will ask foster parents to respond to a questionnaire about their capacity, the ages they can take and if they can do sibling groups. There may be some people who keep their license, but may not want new placements. The information goes into the database. Caregivers

who want new placements should be certain to have regular conversations with the licensing representatives to keep them current in the database.

Q: How do you determine where a child will be placed?

A: We try to reduce the trauma of substitute care by placing the child in familiar settings. Last year we introduced a system that first seeks placements nearest the child's school, so optimally his or her education will not be interrupted. From that criteria, we go to the database to see which agencies' homes near the school have openings. The placement workers then reach out to suitable foster families to see if they will accept the placement.

Q: Why do some homes go for a while without having a child placed there?

A: One thing to remember is that intake is low, very low. Last year, we only had about 200 children enter the system as new cases. You also have to look at the kids who are in care. If a foster parent is only interested in pre-school age children, there will likely be a wait. If you aren't open to sibling groups, often we'll have to pass your home. It is wise for foster parents to talk to their licensing rep about taking children from disrupted placements. Those situations come up more frequently and aren't driven by the availability database for new cases.

Q: I haven't had any kids placed with me for a while. Should I transfer my license to another agency?

A: That is always an option, but I wouldn't recommend it for that reason. Since we are placing children primarily by proximity to their current school, the licensing agency is not as important as the location of your home. But, if your agency only takes specialized children, for example, that could potentially narrow your chances for a placement. The best thing to do is stay in touch with your agency or region and keep an open mind to the types of children you will say "yes" to.

Q: Are there any changes that may be coming for licensing?

A: First, we are looking at ways to free up staff to work more directly with foster parents. Licensing staff should offer support and a relationship, on top of making sure your home meets the standards. We are also hoping to do more recruiting for foster parents who can be involved with parents working toward reunification. There is also policy in the works to look at the best way to serve those caregivers who remain licensed but have reasons for not accepting kids for some period of time.

For more information about licensing, start with your licensing representative. Steven Minter can be reached at 312-328-2721 or steven.minter@illinois.gov.

Increase in adoptions and guardianship drives policy changes

In 1997, 51,000 children were in Illinois foster care. A 10-year push toward permanency is a major factor that helped bring that number down to just 16,000 youth in DCFS care today. The last decade brought groundbreaking policies and practices like the Adoption and Safe Families Act, performance-based contracts and subsidized guardianship. Now, the 40,000 youth who moved to adoption and guardianship more than double the number still in DCFS system. This new reality is driving another wave of innovative research, funding and policy to ensure those families can thrive.

"It is wrong for us to think that government should raise children. That responsibility is for families. Government should do what we need to do to support families," said DCFS Acting Director Erwin McEwen. He included adoption, guardianship and parents reunited with their children in that expanded concept of families in need of support.

McEwen made his remarks at the forum *Preserving Stability after Foster Care: Meeting the Challenges of a Post-Permanency World*. The June meeting brought together researchers, government officials, child welfare agencies and families involved in adoption and guardianship to discuss what is working and how to fix and prevent problems that may arise after families achieve permanency. The Children and Family Research Center of the University of Illinois launched the first-of-its-kind

program and plans to keep the issues at the forefront.

Many of the participants expressed amazement that the discussion even occurred. Over the years, so much effort went into moving youth to adoption that little thought was given to what happened to families later. Recent research is showing that most of those adoptions and guardianship arrangements are stable. Of those that had been finalized for two years, 98 percent of families remain stable. Looking back to permanencies that occurred in 1997, 92 percent remain stable. While the percentages are high, looking at raw numbers tells a more complicated story.

"If 92 percent are stable, then eight percent of permanencies aren't stable. That means there could be thousands of families that are not doing well," pointed out Jeanne Howard of the Center for Adoption Studies.

DCFS is taking steps to help those families and others. McEwen made public for the first time the Department's commitment for funding more post-adoption staff and increased funding for existing post-adoption/guardianship programs. He also committed resources to look at the changing needs of all adopted and guardianship youth as they reach age 13 and 16, and bring in services when necessary.

Illinois is also spearheading federal legislation to preserve the



Congressman Danny Davis (center) and DCFS Acting Director Erwin McEwen (right) met with one of Illinois' first subsidized guardianship families on Capitol Hill.

significant progress made in using guardianship as an avenue to permanency. At the May forum, many participants called for support of HB 1088, the Kinship Caregiver Support Act. This federal bill was modeled after the Illinois Subsidized Guardianship Demonstration Project. That very successful program was done as a waiver, which will expire in 2008, as will similar waivers in other states. The Kinship Caregiver Support Act would allow states to use foster care funds to support relatives caring for family members. It would extend many of the foster care system's independent living and educational benefits for older youth in guardianship families. The act also includes new programs to help caregivers navigate the social services arenas for education, housing, and healthcare resources. Both the United States Senate and the House of Representatives were putting forth similar bills. Caregivers can contact their locally-elected government officials to see where they stand on this issue.

Adoption Advisory Council update

The Illinois Adoption Advisory Council meets six times each year to discuss issues that affect families formed through adoption or subsidized guardianship. The council considers child welfare policy, legislation and research to advocate for Illinois children and families. The most recent meeting was held in June in the Chicago area.

Council takes issues to DCFS Acting Director

The co-chairs of the Illinois Adoption Advisory Council, Elizabeth Richmond and Jim Jones met with Erwin McEwen to discuss the priorities of the Council and the needs of the adoptive and guardianship families it represents. The chairs had good news to report at the June meeting.



Elizabeth Richmond



Jim Jones

Acting Director McEwen agreed the Department should put more emphasis on post-adoption and guardianship services. In the new budget he allocated more funding for post-adoption staff to support families after they move to permanency. He also set aside more funding for the Adoption Preservation Programs, which can be so important if families come to crisis after adoption or guardianship.

McEwen also said he would continue to explore ways to keep families stabilized after achieving permanency. Both chairs and many council members felt that this was a good time to accelerate many of the initiatives the council had already identified, discussed and researched. The chairs set up a committee to develop the action plan to present to McEwen in their next meeting.

Membership changes

Adoptive/guardianship parents, adult adoptees, and professionals from adoption-related organizations comprise the Adoption Advisory Council. Members all serve voluntarily and willingly. However, terms are limited, and the Council said farewell to many members at the end of the fiscal year. The chairs thanked these individuals for their dedicated leadership:

- Jeanne Howard, Center for Adoption Studies at Illinois State University
- Art Davis, Central Region Adoptive Parent



Terry Solomon of the African American Family Commission often spoke on behalf of kinship adoption during her time on the Council

- Ronald Davis, Southern Region Adoptive Parent
- Brian Hall, Cook County Adoptive Parent
- Marilyn Panichi, Adoption Information Center of Illinois
- Terry Solomon, African-American Family Commission

The advisory council is seeking more caregivers and professionals to become members. The Director's office makes the appointments from nominations to the Council. For information, contact the Office of Foster Parent Support Services at 217-524-2422 or send an e-mail to Terry McGlothlin in that office.

The next meeting of the Illinois Adoption Advisory Council will be on Friday, August 3 in Springfield at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel. The meeting begins at 10 a.m. and adjourns at 3 p.m.



Adoption Council Co-Chair Jim Jones thanks adoptive parent Ronald Davis for completing his term.

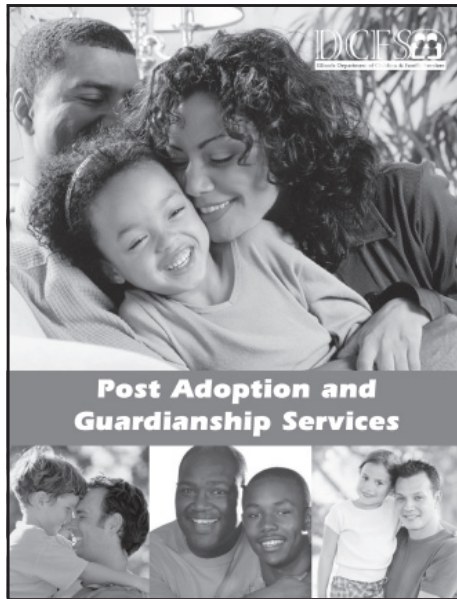
New Post Adoption and Guardianship services book now available

The DCFS Division of Service Intervention recently released a new Post Adoption and Guardianship Services booklet. When families achieve permanency through adoption or guardianship, they end the formal, day-to-day involvement of DCFS. They become responsible for making important decisions about their children. There are many resources through the Department, other government agencies and in the community that can help caregivers after adoption or guardianship. The Post-Adoption and Services booklet is a starting point to provide families with information they may need early on or later as circumstances with their children change.

The booklet outlines four areas:

1. Subsidy Agreement
2. Support of Adoption and Guardianship families
3. Resources for Training and Advocacy
4. Additional Family Resources

It covers basic information from what is included in the subsidy agreements to specifics like what to do if you move out of state with your adopted child. The booklet also includes phone numbers to reach post-adoption services staff, Adoption Preservation Programs and providers for respite services. There is even information on other family resources for daycare, older parents and individuals with disabilities.



New adoptive families will surely find the book helpful. Even experienced families may appreciate having a convenient reference for information, such as how to order a replacement medical card.

The Post Adoption and Guardianship Services booklet is being distributed in DCFS training courses and through private agencies. Caregivers can also contact the DCFS Division of Communications at 217-785-1700 to request a copy, if needed. The document is CFS 1050-45.

New on-line training course

Adoption Learning Partners has introduced another on-line training course. *Adopting the Older Child* is designed to help families consider this option.

The course objectives include:

- Considering potential expectations about older child adoption.
- Understanding the importance of your child's history.
- Developing strategies for integrating an older child into the existing family unit.
- Identifying the challenges specific to older adopted children.
- Understanding when and where to seek assistance for yourself and your child.

The on-line courses presented by Adoption Learning Partners allow caregivers to learn about many adoption-specific topics. Adoptive parents can visit the Web site to log on to courses at their convenience. Fees for courses are waived for DCFS-licensed caregivers. The Web site now offers 10 courses on-line that are eligible for DCFS credit hours:

- Conspicuous Families
- Let's Talk Adoption
- The Journey of Attachment
- Finding the Missing Pieces
- Adopting the Older Child
- Medical Issues
- With Eyes Wide Open
- Child's Best Advocate
- Lifebooks
- Adoption Tax Credit

For more information, visit www.adoptionlearningpartners.org.

Tell It Like It Is—Readers Respond

Families Now and Forever wants to hear the real deal on caring for children from those who know best...YOU!

Here's what you had to say to the question: **Do you notice that your children slip academically or behaviorally during the summer months? How do you counter that and get them ready for school?**

"In the summertime, we keep the same sleep schedule. We don't allow extra TV time just because there is no school. In fact, we watch less TV because we have better weather to enjoy the outdoors."

—Mother (no name given), via telephone

"During the summer we make out a monthly calendar so the kids know what to expect each day. We plan free activities, except our one cost day for the week has a \$5 per person limit. The kids love to help plan a menu for each week, which we post on Sunday night with daily meals and three snacks.

We take the kids out one at a time for school shopping, giving them a set amount to buy a backpack, shoes and clothing. We end the day by going out to dinner, just the three of us. We talk about the teachers and the activities for the coming year.

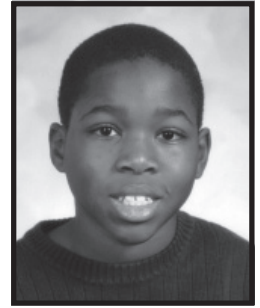
We start getting up early two weeks before school starts, having them dressed, fed and out the door to a morning activity at the time the bus would be coming. We start having an hour of quiet time after 3 p.m. and start the school year bedtime.

—Sheila in Grayslake
with kids ages 17, 16, 15, 15, 14, 13, 12 and 9

The new question is: ***Comparing foster care to adoption or guardianship, what difference between the two has had the biggest impact on your family?***

You can contact me with your response by e-mail at vanessa.james@illinois.gov or by phone at 312-814-6824.

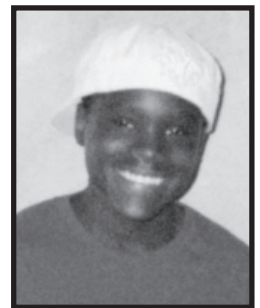
Please call the Adoption Information Center of Illinois at 1-800-572-2390.



Greg (5358)



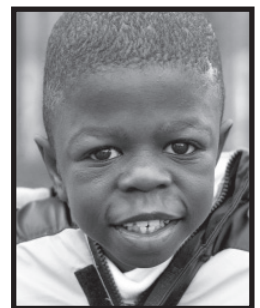
Erica (7567)



Jesse (7603)



Domisha (7499)



Jaiombre (7429)

A family for me

Greg [5358] Greg, 13, is a kind young man who enjoys making new friends. He wins people over with his thoughtfulness and playful sense of humor. He also works hard to serve as a role model for others. In his free time, Greg likes to play sports and pretend with action figures. His teachers report that Greg is a good friend and caring towards his classmates. The family for Greg can provide him with a sense of security, structure, and a regular daily routine. Greg said he'd like to join a nice family with other children and parents who can spend time with him. Illinois families only are being considered at this time.

Erica [7567] Erica, 14, is a friendly young lady who may be a little shy at first, but really loves to socialize. She enjoys helping younger children, and among her friends, she is a positive influence who helps resolve conflicts. After school, Erica enjoys cheerleading and participating in social clubs. Her worker said Erica loves pets, including the new puppies in her foster home. She likes to dress nicely and is very talented at doing people's hair. Erica is ready to join

an adoptive family. You can be kind and supportive. Erica said her ideal family would be "cuddly, fair, and respectful."

Jesse [7603] Jesse, 14, is a fun-loving young man who is well-liked by his classmates. His passion is music, and he dreams of becoming a hip-hop star. Jesse is also very athletic and his favorite sport is football.

His foster parent and teachers said that Jesse is charming and respectful. He loves going to church each week. Jesse's forever family can provide love and encouragement, as well as a structured daily routine. You can help him maintain contact with his birth relatives. An Illinois family is preferred.

Jaiombre [7429] Jaiombre, 9, is a lovable young man who enjoys music and dancing. He has a real talent for memorizing song lyrics and likes to sing along with his favorite songs. When Jaiombre has one-on-one time with his foster parent, he likes to visit amusement parks and carnivals to go on the rides.

His foster parent and teachers both said that Jaiombre can be very sweet and adorable. His worker said he enjoys individual attention. The parents for Jaiombre can be patient and loving, and you can provide a stable home environment. You can ensure that he receives helpful learning supports and regular medical check-ups.

Domisha [7499] Domisha, 8, loves to laugh and can be very sweet and affectionate. She likes quiet settings, and she will often entertain herself by reading, doing puzzles, or playing with dolls. Although Domisha is initially shy, once she gets to know someone, she opens up and expresses warmth through smiles and hugs. In school, she excels at math and takes pride in doing her work correctly.

Her worker and teachers said Domisha is a likeable child and fun to be around. The family for Domisha can be patient and understanding. You can provide her with lots of love and support. You can also help Domisha maintain contact with her older sister after she is adopted.



Please call the Adoption Information Center of Illinois at 1-800-572-2390, or see the AICI Web site – www.adoptinfo-il.org if you are interested in adopting one of these children or learning about other children waiting to be adopted.



Illinois Families Now and Forever

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Address Changes: Families must notify their licensing representative, who will notify DCFS. Agencies should change office addresses or request staff copies through the Editor.

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| Pages 1 – 2 | Top implementation plans focus on foster parents |
| Page 2 | Message from Acting Director Erwin McEwen |
| Page 3 | Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council Bulletin |
| Pages 4 – 5 | Back to school features |
| Page 6 | Licensing Questions and Answers |
| Page 7 | Adoption and guardianship boost drives policy changes |
| Page 8 | Adoption Advisory Council update |
| Page 9 | New Post-Adoption/Guardianship Services booklet |
| Page 10 | Tell It Like It is reader responses |
| Page 11 | Family For Me profiles of waiting children |